

THE De SOTO COUNTY NEWS.

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Phone No. 17.

NOT DEAD NOR WEeping.

There is not a citizen in Arcadia but that deplores the terrible fire of Thanksgiving night. There is not a citizen but would have prevented the occurrence, yet Arcadia is not dead, nor is she weeping. No time for that. We are now a hustling, thriving, progressive city, and are worth more in the commercial world than ever before.

To prove this we have but to mention the fact that but a few days ago one of the lots on the burned section sold for almost double what it would have brought before the fire with the house that was burned on it included. Is this not enough?

We have been informed that other offers have been made but there seems to be little desire on the part of those owning the lots to sell. With such things before us, who can say that the fire will not prove a benefit? Of course it will, and everybody is on the hustle now to show what can and will be done. The News is with you all, and shall exert every muscle to rebuild as quickly as possible.

A HOME ENTERPRISE.

It is with no small degree of pleasure that we note in another part of the News that a company has been formed of our home business men for the manufacture of cement building brick or blocks. That the company is composed of home men is a sufficient guarantee that it is solid.

We felt from the beginning that the business men of Arcadia would meet the disaster that has come upon them like men. We felt that, while the loss to the individual was hard, and in many cases all but ruinous, yet we were sanguine that as a whole, the city would derive some benefit from the fire. It is coming. First is the development here in our midst of a company to manufacture material from which to rebuild their lost houses. This step is gratifying beyond description. It not only furnishes us in a much more speedy manner the material desired, but puts it in our hands at a price that will save from 25 to 40 per cent, and at the same time will keep the money we spend right here at home. This money will go back into the trade channels of Arcadia.

Gentlemen, the News, as one of the largest losers by the fire, feels happy over the turn affairs are taking, and we most heartily commend those who have been instrumental in bringing about the new organization. Let us all do our part, and the city we will build from the ruins now before us will be a gratification to ourselves and a source of pride to South Florida. We say, well done, gentlemen.

GEN. A. W. GILCHRIST.

The following clippings are indeed pleasing to DeSoto folks to read, especially since they speak of one of her honored sons. Read them, as follows:

Gen. A. W. Gilchrist will not be a candidate for the legislature, but he may be in the race for governor. He is a gentleman that would do honor to the office.—Gainesville Sun.

General Gilchrist so far has all other gubernatorial candidates faded. Okra for the farmers and chrysanthemums for the young ladies! It seems that these are vote persuaders.—Ocala Banner.

"Special edition" of the Arcadia News gives a graphic account of the recent disastrous fire in that thriving town, in which property, estimated in value at a quarter of a million dollars was destroyed, and in which both of the newspaper offices were victims. The enterprise and grit of the Arcadia people will rebuild the wasted places, but in the meantime the inconvenience of property loss will be great, and all Florida sympathizes with them therein.—Tallahassee Democrat.

The Industrial edition of the Gainesville Daily Sun is an elegant piece of the printer's art, and will prove of great benefit to the section it represents.

Jacksonville has been entertaining the "Boys who wore the Gray," this week, and right royally has she done it. From the newspaper accounts the old veterans, God bless them, have been having a glorious time, and as in the sixties, the noble women are with them, doing all in their power to make them have a good time.

Tampa is certainly a hustling city. She now wants an Isthmian Canal Exposition, and will ask congress to appropriate a half million for the big show. That is energy proper, and the News congratulates the people over there, and hopes they may get the amount.

Owing to various causes the News comes out late this week, but we are endeavoring to give you an up-to-date paper, and will ask your indulgence until we can get ourselves in shape, which we hope will be at no distant date.

The congressman from the first district, Hon. W. B. Lamar, is trying to make notoriety for himself in Washington, by airing his feelings against minority leader Williams. This is about the last showing Congressman Lamar will get.

Our sister city Bartow, had a prosperous growth during the past year. The papers of that place show the merchants are a real live set.

KINDLY EXPRESSIONS.

The people of the state as a whole sympathize with Arcadia in the heavy losses sustained by the disastrous fire last Thursday. With characteristic pluck and energy, however, the Arcadians have pulled themselves together and are already planning for a better and more substantial order of things. It is indeed a "blessing in disguise," yet we believe this phrase fits the case as no other would. Such disasters are at first appalling, and frequently bear with great severity upon individuals; but invariably they work to the good of the community affected. We know that a year hence will find Arcadia a better, handsomer, more substantial and prosperous town than before last Thursday's conflagration.—Lakeland News.

The Metropolis extends sympathy to the stricken people and town of Arcadia in their recent affliction by fire, but predicts with all sincerity that they will survive the blow and the public grow more prosperous while the town builds better and stronger than ever before. To the two newspapers—the News and Champion—whose plants were totally destroyed, it can offer nothing more than the wish and belief that they will re-establish immediately and continue to give the people of the state two of the best weeklies ever published in it.—Miami Metropolis.

The sister cities of Arcadia sympathize with her in the misfortune that has befallen her. The burning of her buildings may, in the end, result in good by the erection of brick buildings in the business portion of the city. There are several towns where the burning of old wooden structures would prove a benefit instead of a misfortune.—Bartow Record.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to the good people of Arcadia. The town was nearly completely wiped out on Thursday night by fire and the hardest blow to the unfortunates is that very little insurance was carried by them upon their buildings or their stock of goods. Both its newspaper plants were destroyed.—Volusia County Record.

While we haven't space to "spread" much in expressing our sympathy for our sister city, the people there know that we sympathize deeply and sincerely with them, and have confidence enough in their pluck and energy, to believe that their once beautiful city will rise from its ashes more bright and beautiful than ever.—Courier-Informant.

The two Arcadia papers, the News and Champion, are again on deck. The Tribune is very much gratified to note the enterprise displayed by these two representative journals, and sincerely hopes that they will live long and prosper. It takes more than an ordinary two hundred and fifty thousand dollar fire to put the News and Champion out of business.—Tampa Tribune.

Cabbage Plants.

Charleston Wakefield variety Fine field grown plants, \$1.50 per 1000 f. o. b. Nocatee, 40c per 100 postpaid. For sale by

J. W. FREEMAN,
Nocatee, Fla.



MRS. JOHN D. SHERMAN.

A Chicago Woman Who Is an Expert on Parliamentary Law.

Mrs. John D. Sherman of Chicago, recording secretary of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and one of the most prominent club women in the Illinois state federation, also holds the position of instructor of parliamentary law in the John Marshall Law School. Before assuming this position Mrs. Sherman had been lecturing to the women of the school on parliamentary law, but now she is instructor to the more advanced classes of men students, a position heretofore filled by men of national reputation.

Mrs. Sherman began the study of parliamentary law about ten years ago.



MRS. JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN.

Five years ago she became instructor to small classes organized in some of the leading women's clubs of the city.

Mrs. Sherman is also the official parliamentarian of the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs. In addition to her class work, Mrs. Sherman conducts a parliamentary law department in the American Monthly Magazine, the official organ of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and she is the author of a book on parliamentary law which is now in its fourth edition.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Youthfulness.

Youthfulness is a quality very difficult to describe. As often as not it proceeds from the mind rather than from appearance, and one often feels with middle aged and elderly people that they are in reality far more youthful in ideas, in the keenness of their enjoyment and in their fresh outlook than many of one's acquaintances who in point of years are mere girls. It is said that every age has its compensations, and undoubtedly there are many mothers of families and grandmothers, too, who own to an enjoyment and zest for life equal to those experienced in early years. Youthfulness is temperament and the capacity for taking the simple goods that are to be found in existence rather than in waiting for superlative joys which may never arrive, says Woman's Life. The bored person of either sex is invariably a wearisome companion, while one with a keen sense of enjoyment adds to the well being of others a thousandfold.

Daughters and Home.

Mothers who love their daughters supremely cannot afford that any place should seem pleasant to them than the home nest. A mother should not be so interested and insistent on keeping the home in apple pie order as to frown upon the free and hospitable welcome within it to her children's friends. She should open wide the doors of heart and home. It costs little to have boys and girls come to the house for informal frolics, to practice songs together, to play games, to talk over plans and pleasures. A mother should make it natural for her daughters' friends to come because the welcome is so warm, the meeting place so cheery, the atmosphere so friendly and unpretentious, as to make self-consciousness impossible. In this way mothers will get to know their daughters' friends and make it unlikely that any unfortunate attachment should grow and ripen without her knowledge until too late to uproot it.

The Girl Who Works.

God bless the girl who works! She is brave and true and noble. She is not too proud to earn her own living or ashamed to be caught at her daily task. She smiles at you from behind the desk or counter or printer's case. There is a memory of her sewed up in the silent gown. She is like a brave mountaineer already far up the precipice—climbing, struggling, rejoicing. The sight should be an inspiration to us all. It is an honor to know this girl and be worthy of her esteem. Lift your hat to her, young man, as she passes by. Her hand may be stained by dishwashing, sweeping, factory grease or printer's ink, but it is an honest hand and a helping hand. It stays misfortune from home; it supports an invalid loved one maybe; it is a loving, potent shield that protects many a family from the almshouse. All honor to the brave toiler! God bless and protect the girl who works!—Chicago Chronicle.

Her Unenviable Lot.

Under heaven there is no other creature so forlorn as the woman of educated and refined tastes who marries a really poor man and who must combine in her own person mother, wife, cook, seamstress, laundress and nurse. In comparison the lot of the so called working woman is idyllic ease and luxury, for she at least has some hour out of the twenty-four that she can call her own and some money, however little, that she can spend on herself, whereas the unpaid household slave has none. The romantic goose of a girl who is willing and anxious to marry on nothing a year dreams of spending her life in a rose covered cottage, where she will hang perpetually over a rustic gate welcoming and speeding her adoring spouse, and it is only when it is too late that she realizes that, translated into actualities, the vine-covered cot is a 2 by 4 flat and that it is her unhappy destiny to fry Cupid to death over the kitchen range.—Chicago Tribune.

Woman's Wisdom.

Women are the inheritors of the oldest, most universal human wisdom. They have more sense than men, for the simple reason that a man has to be a specialist, and a specialist has to be a fanatic. The normal man all over the world is a hunter or a fisher or a banker or a man of letters or some silly thing. If so, he has to be a wise hunter or a wise banker. But nobody with the smallest knowledge of professional life would ever expect him to be a wise man. But his wife has to be a wise woman. She has to have an eye on everything.—G. K. Chesterton in London Daily News.

Nerves and a Milk Diet.

An entire milk diet is an excellent thing for the woman who is troubled with insomnia. It is also good for the one who is so nervous that when she does sleep she has the sensation of falling and wakes with a terrific start. When these conditions exist it is well to subsist on milk alone for some time. A grown woman should take a pint of milk as a meal, but to keep up her strength she should take four meals a day instead of the usual three. People with weakened nerves require a larger quantity of water than those whose nerves and brains are strong.

Curried Meat.

Cut into dice two cupfuls of cold roast beef, veal, lamb, mutton or chicken. In a frying pan melt three tablespoonfuls of butter, and fry in it a sliced onion. Take out the onion and stir into the butter two tablespoonfuls of browned flour mixed with a tablespoonful of East India curry powder. When well blended, pour in a pint of stock and stir to a smooth brown sauce. Now add the cold meat, which should have been seasoned with salt and pepper. Toss and stir until heated through. Serve with boiled rice. It should be accompanied by bananas.

A Graceful Hand.

The most graceful carriage of the hand is with the second and third fingers held slightly together. To acquire this carriage practice the following exercise: Holding the second and third fingers together, curve them and the thumb in toward the palm of the hand until a perfect circle is formed, then open slowly until the fingers and thumb are again straight. Practice the exercise until the fingers naturally assume the above carriage when the hand is in repose.

Be Careful When Making a Home.

Most of us are careful when we make our wills. We should be far more careful where we make our homes. To the sensitive man or woman a place means very much. It affects the health of the body. It considerably transforms the mind, changing greatly the outlook on life. It even plays tricks with that very delicate piece of mechanism, the heart.—Robert Hichens.

Ginger Jars.

The person who would throw away the ginger jar after the ginger has been eaten has no appreciation of beauty. The jars are excellent for flowers and, being low, are especially adapted to table use. In pictures of Japanese arrangements of flowers jars of this shape are frequently seen, and no one will deny that the surface is as interesting as many expensive potteries.

What Women Are Learning.

The gift of commanding friendship is undoubtedly of far greater worth than beauty; but, like beauty, it can be to some extent cultivated. This is a fact not generally recognized. But then a few years ago women allowed themselves to age prematurely because they did not know of certain ways to keep themselves young both in appearance and manner.—Lady's Pictorial.

Economy in Table Linens.

When tablecloths are beginning to wear out in the folds cut two or three inches off one end and one side and rehem them. This process will change the places of the folds and will add new life to the cloth. Serviettes and towels should be treated in the same way.—Household.

Plump Arms.

Physical culture will produce round, well shaped arms. One set of exercises alone should not be used; this will develop only one or more muscles at the expense of the rest of the arm. Have the exercises arranged so every muscle is brought into use.

When cleaning wall paper use dough made of flour mixed with a little soda and water. The soda will not injure the paper, and the work will be done more rapidly with it.

The vinegar cruet should be put into a closed closet after each meal. Light renders vinegar tasteless and takes away its snap.

Cotton rugs are best for bathrooms. Have them of white and a color to match the tile paper.

When walking breathe deeply, carrying the chest elevated and expanded.

PORTO RICAN TRADE

IT IS BRACING UP THROUGH AMERICAN ENTERPRISE.

Improvements in the Island—Fine Roads Built—The Sugar Industry, Fruit Canneries Are Needed—Tobacco and Rice Crops.

The future of the island of Porto Rico has been the subject of much discussion since it came under the flag of the United States. Now that a stable American civil government has been established and American capital has begun to assist native genius, the prospects of Porto Rico grow brighter every day. The Porto Ricans were little when the control of the island passed from Spain to the United States, and in general they have welcomed American institutions and ideas. As the invasion by American soldiers under General Miles was a friendly one, so the invasion by American customs, implements and industrial methods which has transpired since has been in the interest of the natives and the general progress of the island.

One of the most conspicuous results of the American occupancy is the new system of road building which has been established. Under this system hazardous mountain paths have been transformed into fine driveways, overlooking the picturesque country and affording charming glimpses of the scenery of the island.

Much attention has been given to the establishment of the new system of public instruction, which is based on that prevailing in the various states of the Union. Both English and Spanish are taught, however, and native teachers as well as those born on the mainland of the United States are employed. In the matter of commerce and industry the island has made progress that is remarkable in view of the many handicaps that have existed. Porto Rican sugar captured a grand prize at the recent Louisiana Purchase exposition, yet the industry is only in its infancy. Statistics show that the production of sugar has more than dou-



NEW YABUCOSA ROAD AND ROAD BETWEEN FAYARDO AND NAGUABO.

bled since American occupation. Porto Rican sugar is being more and more sought in the markets of the world.

According to statistics furnished by the Porto Rican commission to the St. Louis fair, an acre of land in this island will produce at a low estimate fifty tons of sugar cane, which sells at \$80 per ton, making a total yield of \$4,000 per acre. Under former conditions the manufacturer allowed the planter \$200 per acre for his cane—in other words, extracted a toll of one-half for working up the product—but with the introduction of modern implements for cultivating and harvesting the cane and modern machinery for the sugar mills all this is being rapidly changed. Yankee genius has improved the methods and cheapened the cost of cultivation, and at the same time the cost of operating the sugar mills has been lessened, so that greater returns come to both planter and manufacturer. Instead of the many small mills that formerly dotted the country large and finely equipped factories have been built, at which the planter may receive a fair price for his crop. Prices are quoted on cane lands in sections where sugar factories have not yet been established as low as \$10 per acre and at from \$10 to \$50 near the large sugar mills.

American occupation has also given a marked stimulus to the rice and tobacco industries. The figures show a most encouraging development in the extent of these industries. American merchants are beginning to learn the value of the products of the cocoa bean from Porto Rico and of the jellies, fruit extracts and preserved fruits that come from the island. The fruit industry could be made much more extensive and profitable than at the present time by wise expenditure of capital. Besides oranges, pineapples, figs, lemons, etc., Porto Rico produces some varieties of tropical fruits which possess many desirable qualities, but are little known on the mainland of the United States. It is believed that these will come ere long to be important articles in the market. The lack of canneries is a handicap to the growth of the fruit industry at present, and it is claimed that capital invested in these would reap good returns as well as benefit the island.

RAILROADS WANTED

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE LIMITED.

To Develop the Natural Wealth of the Islands Lines of Railroad Are Necessary to Connect Ports With Interior—The Water Buffalo.

The development of the Philippine Islands along the lines of industry has been greatly hindered by lack of facilities for transportation. The natural resources of the islands are great, but they have been made of comparatively small use to the world as yet owing in part to the difficulty of getting the products to a market and even of getting to the regions where the undeveloped wealth of the islands lies.

For this reason the Philippine Insular government is anxious to introduce improvements in the way of roads and bridges and especially railroads. A bill was introduced in congress at the last session which provided for federal aid to railroad construction in the Philippines through guarantee of the bonds of the company or companies building lines. This bill passed the house, but action on it in the senate was not secured. It is to be pressed during the present congressional session, and other projects and plans for developing the resources of the islands are likely to receive consideration in this connection.

President Roosevelt in his recent message to congress expressed his hope of "the immediate enactment into law of the legislation now pending to encourage American capital to seek investment in the islands in railroads, in factories, in plantations and in lumbering and mining." The first step in this direction must be the improvement of transportation facilities. At present mail and merchant steamers afford communication between the islands, but there are practically no up to date facilities for transporting passengers and freight from the interior to the coast. Luzon boasts the only railroad in the Philippines, and that is, but 120 miles in length, extending north from Manila to Dagupan, on Lingayen bay. It is estimated that the islands require at least 1,000 miles of railroad as a factor in their development. At present the ports are gen-



THE WATER BUFFALO, THE "PHILIPPINE LOCOMOTIVE."

erally reached from the interior by small rivers or by cart roads or footpaths. These paths and trails extend from the ports in all directions, but afford very poor facilities for traveling through the country, though efforts have recently been put forth toward their improvement, and it is the policy of the insular government to continue this improvement by the building of new roads and bridges and the repairing of existing works of this kind.

Professor Dean Worcester in his work entitled "The Philippine Islands" states that many of the paths called by courtesy "roads" are nothing less than ditches, pools and sloughs during the rains and at such times utterly impracticable for a man on horseback, while there are plenty of so called "roads" on which a horse is worse than useless at any time. As for baggage, it is borne on men's backs or suspended on poles between pairs of carriers or sometimes dragged along in sledges by the slow plodding carabao, or water buffalo. These conditions were general in Spanish times in traveling into the interior. Many improvements have come in customs and ways of living since the American occupancy of the islands, and yet in the matter of transportation facilities comparatively little has yet been accomplished owing to the lack of capital for making the improvements.

Among the majority of the inhabitants the water buffalo continues to be the beast of burden and the "locomotive of the Philippines." But he is far from being an Empire State express or a Twentieth Century limited. He will not work in the middle of the day and insists on having his mud baths at regular and sometimes irregular intervals. He can go where the horse cannot, but if urged to proceed when not so inclined becomes a most unreliable means of conveyance. Sooner or later he will spy a tempting slough, and into it he will go, no matter what happens to the traveler or the baggage on his back. Professor Worcester's experience with the carabao led him to the conclusion that it is generally easier to walk than to ride one of these animals. The water buffalo is valued by the Philippines at from \$10 to \$30, according to local demand. Not long since a pest killed off a great many of the beasts of burden, thus seriously interfering with agricultural industry and making all the more apparent the fact that new methods of transportation are urgently needed.